

## Rockefeller Organizes and Finances His Own "Labor Union"

Members "Permitted" to Hold Meetings and Present Grievances—A. F. of L. Officials Treat the Scheme Lightly.

Pueblo, Colo.—The many tragedies that have been witnessed in this State during the workers' battle for economic justice are now supplanted by comedy—a "Rockefeller union"—offered by men approved by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, and financed by this same concern.

With due solemnity the scheme was launched in this city last week, and is the culmination of a spectacular visit through Southern Colorado by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and his publicity agent, Mackenzie King, accompanied by newspaper men and photographers.

Plans for the new "union" were perfected at a meeting of officers of the company "and fifty representatives of the workers." Of course, the "union" was unanimously indorsed and mine superintendents were given copies of the plan to submit same to miners, who have had the scheme explained to them by mine officials, after which it was indorsed by a "referendum" vote.

Mr. Rockefeller and his friends hail the new movement as the final solution of differences between capital and labor. The United Mine Workers' Union is not recognized, but it is hinted, indirectly, that "conditions may change." The clever appeal of the mine operators to be left alone in their effort to supplant a trade union will not be successful.

The plan provides that every 150 miners shall be entitled to a representative, elected by the miners. An elaborate program of presenting grievances is included, as is committees to increase efficiency and social welfare work.

At the election for representatives, each miner "shall be permitted" to freely discuss his grievance. Especial attention is called to this astounding concession on the part of Mr. Rockefeller and his associates, who have driven from the Southern Colorado coal fields every worker who protested against being forced to patronize company stores and who objected to being robbed by company check weighmen.

The company promises to obey all Federal and State laws, which is another concession, as the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company's disregard for these statutes caused the recent strike of miners.

Employees "are given the right" to hold meetings, and "shall have the right" to employ their own check weighmen. The right to hire and discharge remains with the company, and it is further provided that:

"There shall be no discrimination by the company or by any of its employees on account of membership or non-membership in any society, fraternity or union."

The effect of this rule on organized labor can be best appreciated when it is

recalled that only recently a special committee, representing the United Mine Workers of America, issued a public statement to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., containing this challenge:

"Since the strike was called off last December this company (Colorado Fuel and Iron) has steadfastly refused to re-employ men who were still affiliated with the union, and we defy Mr. Rockefeller to produce from his entire working force in Southern Colorado a dozen men who are members of the union."

Wages and working conditions are to remain the same until January 1, 1918, but if increases are made in competitive districts prior to that time a joint meeting of company officials and representatives of the men shall be called to make effective "proportionate increases" in the properties of Colorado Fuel and Iron. This is another way of saying that wages will remain the same until the date specified, unless the miners' union enforces betterments elsewhere. Then it will be necessary to meet these betterments that the union gains no foothold in this section.

In other words, the backers of the "Rockefeller union" announce that working conditions will be guided by the Mine Workers' Union. This declaration is an acknowledgment that the union is still a force to be reckoned with; that it creates the standard for working conditions, and that there is constant danger that employees may become dissatisfied with the methods of hand-picked representatives intended to supplant the right of men to elect their own officials and check weighmen without supervision by mine superintendents.

The entire cost of the plan is to be borne by the company.

The "Rockefeller union" is another link in the historic chain of trade union opposition that grows weaker and weaker when confronted by determined agitation and organization by the workers. This opposition was first shown when workers were jailed as conspirators if they dared to organize bona fide unions. Later, the "open shop" plan was favored in the hope that trade unionism would be checked. This, likewise, proved ineffective, and anti-unionists will now probably accept the Rockefeller brand of "unionism," which means that an employer will "permit" collective bargaining with a union he finances and will "permit" presentation of grievances through representatives satisfactory to him.

This plan, together with increased welfare work and club houses will, it is expected, keep workers from legitimate trade unions, where they are taught to own themselves and assert their manhood and independence.

### Samuel Gompers' Views.

So Mr. Rockefeller has formed a union—a union of his employees of his Colorado Fuel and Iron Company—and perhaps imagines that he has solved the problem of just relations between himself and his employees. But with all his wealth and all his brains, and the brains that he could buy and suborn, he has missed his mark. Imagine an organization of miners formed by the richest man in the world, who employs its members. What influence can such a pseudo union have to insist upon the remedying of a previous wrong or the attainment of a real right? And what about the representatives of the men "sitting around the table" with Mr. Rockefeller and his angelic representatives out in Colorado, should the miners' spokesman have the temerity to insist in the rightful demands of the miners?

The miners employed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is the head, have been whipped by means of atrocious brutality and hunger into submission, back to the mines. And these miners have been formed into a union by Mr. Rockefeller's benevolent altruism. But he has organized them, and for that, at any rate, labor is truly grateful, for when men come together to discuss, even in the most cursory way, their rights and their interests and welfare, there is afforded the splendid field for development and opportunity.

After what Mr. Rockefeller has done, that is, to organize a "union" of miners in Colorado, he should carry his benevolent and practical purpose into full execution in all his varied industries and not wait until another massacre, the like of which occurred at Ludlow, should break out at one of his other industrial institutions. Do not stop at Colorado, Organizer Rockefeller!

### Secretary Morrison's Opinion.

Mr. Rockefeller's plan is significant. In his alleged "collective bargaining" plan he yields more than any other employer hostile to the trade union movement.

He says he acknowledges the principle of collective bargaining—and to en-

force his conception of this theory creates a union and evolves a comprehensive plan that, the press states, is financed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. We are told these workers will be "permitted" to present their grievances.

Organized workers present their grievances through the power of their economic organization. They enforce their right to have a voice in the disposal of their labor power.

Mr. Rockefeller's plan provides that workers will be "permitted" to present grievances. If one dissects this theory he sees that the power that "permits" can also withdraw any time it elects.

Herein is the fundamental difference between the Rockefeller plan and that of trade unions. One develops independence, the other relies on the graciousness and good will of the employer. There can be no compromise between the two theories, for if workmen are to be really free their right to regulate their own lives must be acknowledged.

Mr. Rockefeller's welfare plan contains nothing new—it is only a repetition of efforts made by employers to keep their workmen satisfied.

I am sure that time will demonstrate that the plan prepared by Rockefeller for his employees in Colorado will prove a full cousin to the other schemes of like character inaugurated for the sole purpose of preventing organization of employees that will enable them to secure improved conditions.

### MISS CAMPBELL URGES SCHOOL FOR JANITORS

Schools for school janitors and better pay for teachers were urged by Miss Edith Campbell, candidate for re-election to the Cincinnati School Board, in an address in Cleveland Saturday as



M. EDITH CAMPBELL  
Candidate for re-election to the School Board.

a part of the campaign there to secure a large registration of women in the school election, November 2.

"I am not satisfied with the way public schools are kept," Miss Campbell told her women hearers.

She was unanimously indorsed for election with A. D. Shockley and Dr. Louis Schwab, members of the Citizens' Council ticket, by the Cincinnati Woman's City Club Saturday.

### STABILITY LEAGUE PLAN

To Be Opposed By Printers, Who Call on Unions to Aid 'Em.

Lima, O.—That the union labor organizations of Ohio would unite in opposing the proposed Stability League amendment to the State constitution providing that an amendment that has been twice defeated at the polls can not be resubmitted again for six years was indicated tonight by delegates attending the seventeenth annual convention of the Ohio Typographical Union, in session here today and tomorrow.

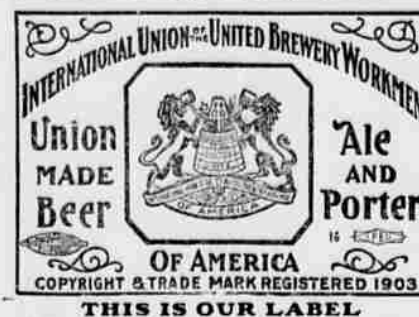
A resolution calling for all union printers and members of other labor organizations to oppose the amendment will be introduced at a business session tomorrow.

F. W. Vampelt, secretary of the Lima local, said tonight:

"We will present the resolution tomorrow. Laboring men are opposed to this amendment, as it would work to prevent the labor element ever passing an amendment to the constitution. Enemies of labor could defeat us by presenting our amendment in such an obnoxious form that it would be sure of defeat. By doing this twice they could prevent our submitting the amendment for six years. At the end of that time they could repeat the performance."

Marsden B. Scott, of Indianapolis, president of the International Typographical Union; Postmaster Parrish, of Toledo, and John B. Hogan, of Cleveland, were speakers at the first business session tonight. Mayor Miles Standish welcomed the printers to Lima.

## VOTE AGAINST PROHIBITION!



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## VOTE FOR LOUIS J. HELFRICH CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL---TWENTY-SIXTH WARD ON THE REPUBLICAN TICKET Election, November 2, 1915 A Friend of Organized Labor



## ORVILLE K. JONES 394 TERRACE AVENUE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR Councilman at Large SOLICITS YOUR VOTE Election, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1915



## VOTE FOR Frank M. Tracy

CANDIDATE FOR

## Judge Circuit Court KENTON COUNTY, KY.

An opinion such as this from Judge Tracy could never issue from any other than one whose thought and intent was given to honesty and sincerity, and his community should feel proud of his presence—not for his opinion in this particular case, but for the revelation of his honesty of purpose.

—Coopers' International Journal.

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